

River Friendly Living Grant

The work of Friends of the Verde River is rooted in the belief that our communities and our rivers need each other. We value integrity, collaboration, sustainability, and innovation. Friends is committed to the principles of truth, honesty, and respect, including respect for the diverse communities in the Verde River system and those who love this region.

Friends of the Verde River invites proposals for small grants (\$5,000 maximum) to build community resilience through sustainable water supply, clean water, healthy habitats, and community connection to the Verde River system.

Funding may be awarded to projects that address one or more of the following focus areas:

- Support or create sustainable water supply (improved infrastructure, increased efficiency)
- Support clean water initiatives (water quality testing, waste management, chemical management)
- Support healthy uplands and riparian forests
- Improve community support and connection to the Verde River and its tributaries. (education & recreation opportunities that improve awareness)

Eligible Applicants:

- Nonprofits designated under section 501(c)(3) are eligible. We will also entertain applications from nonprofits designated under sections 501(c)(4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), with the exception that no group organized for political purposes will be eligible.
- Governmental organizations (municipalities, counties, public land managers, conservation districts, public agencies).
- Businesses that are actively participating in the River Friendly Living program. For more information regarding participation, contact isaacd@verderiver.org.

This RFP is for one-time, short-term (one year, maximum) projects. Grant requests are limited to a maximum of \$5,000. If you have received a Verde River grant through Friends of the Verde River (or One for the Verde) in the past, you are eligible to apply again once Friends of the Verde River has received your report on your most recent grant. (See the reporting schedule for more details.)

The Grant Review Process:

A selection committee comprising local business representatives and Friends of the Verde River representatives will meet to select and prioritize worthy projects. In this grant cycle, we will award up to \$10,000 total. Project schedule should not exceed one year.

Funding Cycle:

- Proposals due October 15, 2023, 5:00 pm – Email completed applications to grants@verderiver.org
- Grant awardees notified December 2023
- Awards distributed January 2024

Application Procedures

Please submit your application containing all of the items specified below no later than 5:00 pm on October 15, 2023. We will contact you if we have questions or require additional information.

Your application must include:

Name of Organization: Federal EIN:

Mailing Address: Phone Number: Name of Proposal:

Authorized Signatory (name, title, email, phone): Primary Project Manager (name, title, email, phone):

Description of Proposed Project (no more than 2,500 words) including:

- Project benefit to the Verde watershed (Please reference the focus areas on page 1)
- Project benefit to local economy
- Project schedule with key milestones
- Methods for completion
- Measure(s) of successful completion
- Project Budget, including (use provided budget template or similar form)
- Total Project income and expenses, including income from all sources
- Project income and expenses to paid with this grant
- Project income and expenses from other sources, expected and secured
- Detail direct and indirect expenses in the budget
- Letters of Support (Maximum of two) Businesses must include a letter of support from the Non-Profit or Governmental Organization they are partnering with.

For nonprofit organizations, please submit the following:

- List of Officers and Directors
- IRS Letter of Determination
- Financial Statement for past fiscal year
- Operating budget for current fiscal year
- A brief description of related completed past projects

For businesses, please submit the following in addition to the applicable material above:

- 2022 Income Statement
- 2023 Projected Revenue

Project Report Required of Past Grant Recipients

All grant recipients must submit a short report (no more than 2,000 words) outlining accomplishments and detailing measures of success before any subsequent grant may be awarded. Your report must contain all of the following information:

- Name of Organization
Name of Proposal
Year and amount awarded
- Person submitting the report (name, title, email, phone) Body of the report should describe all of the following:
- How the project benefited the Verde watershed and the local economy; key activities and successes, with dates, if applicable; how the project was completed relative to measures of success identified in the grant application; any lessons learned; and things you would have done differently or things that went particularly well.
- In addition, provide a project financial report that illustrates how the funds received were spent compared to the project budget; include total funding received and spent from other sources for this project along with the funding received from Friends of the Verde River.

Please attach three to four photos, maps, or other illustrations, which Friends may publish in a report of the grant program, that illustrate the project.

Reporting:

Interim reports are due by the end of June in the calendar year of the award distribution. Final reports are due one year from the date of grant award distribution. If the proposed project has not been completed within the granting year, or will continue beyond the one-year date, additional interim reports are due at six-month intervals. Projects where funds awarded have not been used towards the awarded project within one year from award distribution will be considered in default and the awarded organization will not qualify for future grant funding.

Submit grant application and supporting documents to: Grants@VerdeRiver.org by October 15, 2023.